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TRANSMITTAL FORM

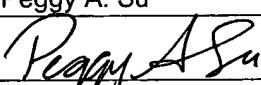
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number	10/698,198
		Filing Date	October 31, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Alex Ka Tim Poon
		Group Art Unit	2837
		Examiner Name	Patrick L. Miller
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	NRCAP019

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (1 Replacement Sheet, 1 Annotated Sheet showing changes) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks		The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-1652.
In response to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004, the period for response being extended as a result of the enclosed petition and requisite fee, please make the enclosed of record.		

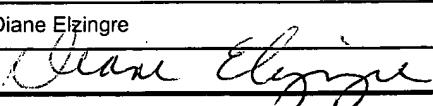
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm and Individual name	RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP Peggy A. Su Reg. No. 41,336	
Signature		
Date	January 20, 2005	

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.	:	10/698,198	Confirmation No.:	9979
Applicant	:	Alex Ka Tim Poon et al.		
Filed	:	October 31, 2003		
TC/A.U.	:	2837		
Examiner	:	Patrick L. Miller		
Docket No.	:	NRCAP019		
Customer No.	:	26541		
Title	:	STAGE WITH ISOLATED ACTUATORS FOR LAW VACUUM ENVIRONMENT		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 6, 2004, the period for response with a 1-month extension of time which extends through February 7, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 8 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 12 of this paper.